

## Message Text

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ORIGIN H-02

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APPROVED BY EA:RHOLBROOKE  
EA/K:JSBOARDMAN  
EA/RA:DSHARRIS  
EA:RBOAKLEY

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R 032039Z MAR 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM

SUBJECT: CONTINGENCY GUIDANCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

1. THE HUMPHREY SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREIGN ASSISTANCE OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE WILL HOLD HEARINGS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND FOREIGN ASSISTANCE MARCH 4 (PUBLIC TESTIMONY) AND 7. DEPUTY SECRETARY WARREN CHRISTOPHER WILL TESTIFY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE AT 11:00 MONDAY, MARCH 7 ACCOMPANIED BY PATT DERIAN AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARIES FROM EACH OF THE REGIONAL BUREAUS. AFTER PRESENTING HIS GENERAL STATEMENT ON U.S. POLICY ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY IS EXPECTED TO BE ASKED QUESTIONS ON A VARIETY OF SPECIFIC HUMAN RIGHTS SUBJECTS,

2. THE FOLLOWING CONTINGENCY GUIDANCE HAS BEEN PREPARED  
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IN CASE THE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA ARISES. THIS GUIDANCE HAS BEEN VERY CAREFULLY REVIEWED WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT AND REFLECTS THE ADMINISTRATION'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY AS WELL AS OVERALL U.S. INTERESTS.

BEGIN QUOTE

--THIS ADMINISTRATION IS DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM IN SOUTH KOREA AND DETERMINED TO WORK WITH THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT TO BRING ABOUT AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE SITUATION. AT THE SAME TIME, THE ADMINISTRATION HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO CONSIDER THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE OVERALL RELATIONSHIP WITH SOUTH KOREA, OUR COMMITMENT TO ITS SECURITY AND THAT OF NEIGHBORING JAPAN, AND THE CLEAR THREAT POSED BY THE AGGRESSIVE POLICIES OF THE COMMUNIST REGIME IN NORTH KOREA.

--AS SECRETARY VANCE HAS SAID, WE MUST BALANCE THESE VARIOUS MAJOR ELEMENTS OF U.S. POLICY. THE U.S. HAS MADE CLEAR, AT HIGH LEVELS, ITS BELIEF THAT THE SOUTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT MUST DO BETTER IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD. WE ARE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED WITH THE NATURE OF RESTRICTIONS ON POLITICAL ACTIVITY WHICH HAVE LED TO THE ARREST OF MANY KOREAN CITIZENS WHO VOICED PEACEFUL OPPOSITION TO THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT. WE WILL CONTINUE TO EXPRESS OUR CONCERN IN AUTHORITATIVE WAYS AND WILL CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE A HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION CONSISTENT WITH NORMALLY-ACCEPTED INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS.

-- AT THE SAME TIME, WE BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE A SERIOUS MISTAKE TO CUT BACK OUR LONG-STANDING ASSISTANCE IN BUILDING UP AND MODERNIZING THE SOUTH KOREAN ARMED FORCES SO THAT THEY CAN BETTER COPE WITH THE FORMIDABLE TASK OF PROTECTING THEIR COUNTRY AGAINST THE THREAT FROM THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NORTH.

--THE NORTH KOREAN REGIME EVINCES NO CONCERN AT ALL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND MAKES NO EFFORT TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE VALUES IN WHICH WE SO STRONGLY BELIEVE. IT HAS ALSO ENGAGED OVER A PERIOD OF THREE DECADES IN EFFORTS TO UNDERMINE THE SOUTH BY ENCOURAGING INTERNAL UNREST AS WELL AS BY THE THREAT OR USE OF FORCE FROM OUTSIDE.

--TO CUT BACK ON OUR SUPPORT FOR SOUTH KOREA'S MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD BE A MISTAKE. MOST SOUTH KOREANS, INCLUDING DOMESTIC CRITICS OF THE GOVERNMENT, STRONGLY FAVOR CONTINUATION OF US-KOREAN SECURITY TIES AND ASSISTANCE. WE WILL THUS CONTINUE TO WORK FOR AN IMPROVEMENT IN SOUTH KOREA'S DEFENSIVE CAPABILITY.

--AT THE SAME TIME, WE WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS VIGOROUSLY FOR AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION.

END QUOTE  
VANCE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Drafter:** ASWIFT;JCM  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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